

recently signed into law with a provision that I championed that requires mental health screening for all service-members returning from combat. This is the single most effective thing we can do to identify cases of mental illness, reduce the stigma of mental illness, and ensure our brave men and women in uniform receive the treatment they need and deserve for mental illness. However, we don't have enough mental health professionals to carry out these screenings.

I ask my colleagues to join me in increasing mental health funding and making sure the Defense Department and VA hire the mental health professionals they need to keep our service-members well.

CAP-AND-TRADE

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my concerns about the rush of some of my colleagues that they seem to be in to enact cap-and-trade legislation. We are seeing serious doubts on the validity of the science which is driving this flawed policy. In fact, the EPA has formally declared greenhouse gas emissions as dangerous pollutants, an action which could prove costly to America's farms, ranches, and small businesses.

At a time of double-digit unemployment, the last thing our country needs is a jobs-killing tax regime imposed on our family-run small businesses and agriculture producers. Agriculture is an energy-intensive industry, relying on fuel for the truck, fertilizer for the crops, and generators to keep heaters on during the winter.

This national energy tax is the wrong way to go, and it's based on flawed science.

HONORING THE LIVES OF THE FOUR LAKEWOOD CITY POLICE OFFICERS KILLED ON NOVEMBER 30, 2009

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, today in Tacoma, Washington, the State of Washington will honor and memorialize the service and lives of four Lakewood City police officers who were slain while on duty on November 30 this year.

Sergeant Mark Renninger, Officer Ronald Owens, Officer Tina Griswold, and Officer Gregory Richards were killed while in the line of duty. And today, in the Tacoma Dome, thousands of Washingtonians will embrace them in their arms and in their hearts and to show respect for their loss.

But I just want to note that it is the Nation that appropriately honors and memorializes these four officers, and

the reason is that they are symbols of the service of police and sheriff's officers all over this country who are out on dark roads, who are working in dark cities, who are doing the hard detective work it takes to keep us safe. And I hope we will thank the next officer we see for their service.

And I just want to tell these families how I feel. I lost my cousin, a sheriff's deputy, Mark Brown, in 1999 while in the line of duty. My prayers and heart goes out to these families, and I hope all my colleagues will join me in that regard.

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THE FINANCIAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, as I was getting ready to come here this morning, I was listening to the television and something was said that really caused me to not just pause but really question what some folks are doing with this country.

Moody's Investment Service has sounded an alarm. It is said that if we do not stop our spending, we will lose our AAA rating. We're in jeopardy of losing our AAA rating in the next 3 to 4 years.

This week we're going to debate an omnibus budget bill that will spend almost a half-trillion dollars—that's a half-trillion dollars more to the deficit we already have. Moody's has warned us we can't sustain the spending, and this is going to cost us our triple-A rating.

Madam Speaker, I question what some folks want to do. We need to pause before we spend the taxpayer dollars. We need to make sure that we do not ruin the financial security of our Nation.

CONGRATULATING CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE'S CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Central Arizona College's women's cross-country team.

On November 14, the Vaqueras earned their second National Junior College Athletic Association Championship in 5 years. The squad had four runners in the top 12 at the Championship meet, with last year's national title winner, Rose Tanui, placing second. The team has shown an unwavering commitment to excellence. They have been practicing six mornings a week starting at 5:59 a.m. since the start of the school year, and now all their hard work and lost sleep has paid off. Winning the title was a perfect sendoff for Coach

Mike Gray, the NJCAA coach of the year who is retiring after leading the Vaqueras for over a decade.

I would like to congratulate Coach Gray and the entire team on this amazing end to their tremendous season.

"LET WALL STREET PAY FOR THE RESTORATION OF MAIN STREET" ACT

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, out-of-control financial speculation on Wall Street contributed to the deep economic hole we're in today. Taxpayers have paid the price, risking around \$3 trillion to stabilize the financial system. Astonishingly, the top three bailed-out firms are reportedly on track to pay \$30 billion in bonuses to top executives this year. In the meantime, furloughs, unemployment, and foreclosure are weighing on American families. Limited access to lending is still a problem for many small businesses.

It's time for us to institute a modest transaction tax on trades of stocks, options, and swaps. Even a small tax of a quarter percent on these securities could raise up to \$150 billion a year. Part of this revenue should be used to invest in our Nation's infrastructure, creating jobs and putting Americans back to work again.

I ask my colleagues to support the "Let Wall Street Pay for the Restoration of Main Street Act." Wall Street needs to be part of the solution, not an ongoing part of the problem.

USING BAILOUT FUNDS AS A SLUSH FUND VIOLATES THE LAW

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Last year I opposed the Wall Street bailout because I thought it was just wrong to take \$700 billion in bad decisions on Wall Street and transfer that debt burden to Main Street and future generations of Americans.

But while I believe the action taken by Congress a year ago was wrong, the TARP legislation actually rightly demanded that any money not used to purchase toxic assets in the bill be used to pay down the national debt. The legislation specifically says that any leftover TARP money goes to deficit reduction.

That's why I have to tell you, Madam Speaker, I was astonished when I heard Speaker NANCY PELOSI last week suggest that her source to pay for a new so-called stimulus bill would be leftover TARP funding. And if press reports are true, the President of the United States will address the Brookings Institution this morning and suggest the same.

Let me be clear on this point. To use money from the TARP fund in the